UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Bishop

DATE: May 8, 1972

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY OSWALD
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA - CUBA
Request For Access To FBI Records -
Congressman Richard H. Ichord
(Democrat - Missouri)

Reference memorandum of 4-10-72 from Mr. Branigan to Mr. Miller and my memorandum to you of 4-28-72 concerning efforts to contact Congressman Richard H. Ichord (D-Missouri) with respect to three FBI documents which the Congressman had requested from Archives relating to the assassination of former President John F. Kennedy.

By appointment, Inspector Bowers called on Congressman Ichord on 5-8-72. The Congressman stated he is concerned with allegedly unrevealed involvement on the part of the KGB with Oswald prior to the assassination of President Kennedy and that was the reason for his having requested the various documents from Archives. The Congressman was asked if he was seeking this information on his own volition or if, in fact, he had requested it for Bernard Fensterwald, head of the National Committee to Investigate Assassinations, it being pointed out to the Congressman that Fensterwald had been seen in his office by Bowers during an earlier visit there to discuss this matter.

The Congressman said that he had requested the information for Fensterwald and stated he knows little of Fensterwald but he had been led to believe that the information was desired in connection with legitimate research for a book being prepared by Fensterwald or some people working with him. At this point the Congressman was briefed for his confidential information on Fensterwald's background, and he was furnished the identities of those associated with Fensterwald on the National Committee to Investigate Assassinations; namely, Fred J. Cook, [redacted] writer; William Turner, former FBI Agent; and Jim Garrison, New Orleans District Attorney. The Congressman was told that Fensterwald has stated that one of the primary purposes for organizing the Committee to Investigate Assassinations was to embarrass the Government.

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1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. E. S. Miller
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(9)

1 - Mr. Branigan
1 - Mr. M. A. Jones
1 - Mr. D. W. Bowers

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Memorandum to Mr. [illegible]op
Re: Lee Harvey Oswald
Internal Security - Russia - Cuba
Request For Access To FBI Records
Congressman Richard H. Ichord
(Democrat - Missouri)

The Congressman remarked that he had no knowledge that Fensterwald was involved with such characters and was not aware of Fensterwald's background. He stated he certainly does not want to become embroiled with such individuals but that unfortunately the situation has progressed to the point whereby Fensterwald will probably allege that "my mouth has been sealed" by Government officials who want to hide the truth about the Kennedy assassination. He stated he feels the best course of action for him to take at this time is simply advise Fensterwald that he has seen the documents in question, both those originating with the FBI and the CIA, and that they contain no information pertinent to Fensterwald's inquiry.

During conversation with Congressman Ichord it was apparent that he is aware of the general nature of the three FBI documents in question. He stated, in fact, that he understands these documents concern an interview with [redacted] investigation to locate a safety deposit box allegedly rented by Oswald; and certain investigations in Mexico. The Congressman was advised that two of the documents in question contain no particularly substantive information and relate primarily to Bureau sources and operations and that the third document deals with the interview of [redacted] and could not be released by us without first clearing it with other sources.

The Congressman expressed his appreciation for our advice in this matter and particularly for the information concerning Fensterwald. He stated he is scheduled to talk with CIA representatives later this week concerning their documents, and he in all probability will treat them the same as FBI documents and merely tell Fensterwald that he has seen the documents in question and they contain no information pertinent to his inquiry.

RECOMMENDATION:

That this be referred to the Domestic Intelligence Division.

5:42P
5-11-72